



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

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PSC MODIFIES HEARING SCHEDULE IN MISSOURI GAS ENERGY RATE CASE

Jefferson City (December 22, 2003)---Based upon recommendations from parties in the case, the Missouri Public Service Commission has modified the hearing schedule in a natural gas rate case filed by Missouri Gas Energy. Hearings, originally scheduled to begin on June 1, 2004, will now begin on **June 21, 2004**, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City. **Hearings will continue through June 25, 2004. Additional hearing dates have been scheduled for June 28, 2004 through July 2, 2004.**

The Governor Office Building (200 Madison Street) meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 before the hearings.

The Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in this rate case to give customers of Missouri Gas Energy an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal. Dates, times and locations will be announced when finalized.

On November 4, 2003, Missouri Gas Energy filed a natural gas rate case with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$44.8 million. The Company stated in its press release announcing the rate filing that the proposed increase for residential customers would be approximately \$6.50 a month.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Missouri Gas Energy for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Missouri Gas Energy make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Missouri Gas Energy serves approximately 499,800 natural gas customers in western Missouri.

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